

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

Kwanzaa (QUAN zah) is a non-religious African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. It is celebrated for seven days:

December 26 - January 1.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" (ma TUN dah yah QUAN zah) which means "first fruits" in Swahili.

The kinara (kee NAH ra) is the center of the Kwanzaa setting and represents the original stalk from which we came: our ancestry.

Umoja (Unity) oo MOH jah

To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) koo jee chah goo LEE ah

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) oo JEE mah

To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) OOO ja MAH

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose) NEE ah

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity) koo UUM ba

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith) ee MAH nee

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.